

UNIVERSITA' DI SIENA
FACOLTA' DI SCIENZE POLITICHE
COMPARATIVE POLITICS SYLLABUS 2016-17
POLITICA COMPARATA SYLLABUS 2016-17

“Political Change in the Democracies of Europe and in the EU: Forms of government and party systems in the crisis years”

Classes: Wednesday 14-16 , Thursday 15-17, Friday 9-10.

Teacher: Prof. Maurizio Cotta (cotta@unisi.it)

Office hours: Wednesday: 11-12; Thursday 11-12

Teaching assistant: Gianni Del Panta (jofplant@gmail.com)

Summary of the Course: The aim of the course is to understand in a comparative perspective how politics is changing in Europe. A short introduction on the comparative method will clarify why comparison stands at the core of political science, and illustrate the basic analytical instruments through which comparative research can be conducted. After this introduction the course will explore the theme of political change in Europe focusing on two fundamental elements which concur in defining the structure and functioning of democratic regimes: the form of government and the party system. We are particularly interested in evaluating to what extent the very serious and multiple crises which have deeply affected during the last years the European landscape have produced or concurred to stimulate changes on the two fundamental elements of the democratic system mentioned before.

The first module of the course will be devoted to discussing the main conceptual and empirical instruments for the analysis of forms of governments and party systems. In the second module the students will be asked to conduct an individual empirical research work on one or more cases and to write a paper on the topic assigned.

A first version of the students' papers will be discussed in class and the final version of about 6000 words will be handed within two weeks after the end of the course.

Readings: the readings for the course can be downloaded from the website

<http://politicacomparata.wordpress.com>

Evaluation: During the first module of the course all students are required to prepare **each week a written comment of about 350-450 words** reflecting on two of the assigned readings. The comment is due at least 12 hours before the start of the Tuesday class of each week (IMPORTANT!! reaction papers have to be sent by email at both maurizio.cotta@unisi.it and jofplant@gmail.com as attached files, using the following filename: *LastName_AssignN[number of the assignment]*). In these short papers students need to demonstrate that they have read and thought about the reading material. Due to the structure of the forum absolutely no late work is accepted. We will on the other hand drop one of your lowest performing papers.

Attendance is **compulsory**. If you are unable to attend a class, make sure we know it **before** the class.

Grading for students who attend regularly:

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| a. <i>For the first module:</i> | |
| Participation in class | 50% |
| Reactions to readings | 50% |

- b. *For the second module*
 - In class participation and reactions to readings 40%
 - Paper: 60%

The final evaluation will be based on the mean between the two modules.

Students who for very serious reasons are not able to attend regularly classes **must communicate** this to the Teaching Assistant **within the first week of the course**. A special program is available for them.

Grading for irregularly attending students:

- c. *For the first module:*
 - Oral discussion of the readings or book 100%
- d. *For the second module*
 - Paper: 80%
 - Oral discussion of the paper 20%

The final evaluation will be based on the mean between the two modules

First Module: Concepts and theories

First week (Lectures 1-5; 4-6 October). Comparison and Political Science

- Course presentation. Topics, Evaluation, Grading.
- Why comparing? Political science and the comparative method, How to compare. Quantitative and qualitative perspectives

Readings: D. Collier (1993). *The Comparative Method*, in A. Finifter, *The state of the discipline II*, Washington, American Political Science Association, ch.5, pp. 106-119.

Other readings: C. Lees (2006). *We are all comparativists now. Why and how single-country scholarship must adapt and incorporate the comparative politics approach*, in "Comparative Political Studies", 39: pp.1084-1108.

Second week (Lectures 6-10; 12-14 October). Institutions and Parties in Democratic Regimes and in Semi-democratic ones. Democracy in a supranational setting.

- Defining democracy. The role of institutions and parties in liberal democratic regimes
- Democracy and hybrid regimes. The role of institutions and parties in hybrid regimes
- The special case of the EU: democracy in a supra-national setting

Readings: C. Tilly (2007), *What is Democracy?* in C. Tilly, *Democracy*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-24. D.Collier and S. Levitsky (1997) *Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research*, in "World Politics", 49, pp. 430-451;.

Other readings: L. Diamond, *Defining and Developing Democracy* (1999). ch.1 in L. Diamond, *Developing Democracy*, Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp.1-23 ; S. Levitsky and W. Lucan (2002) *The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism* in "Journal of Democracy"13, pp. 51-65;

Third Week (Lectures 11-15; 19-21 October). The analysis of Forms of Government I

- The analysis of forms of government. What is it all about?

- Parliamentarism, Presidentialism and other forms of government.

Readings: K. Ström (2000), *Delegation and accountability in parliamentary governments*, in “European Journal of Political Research” 37: pp. 261-289; A. Siaroff (2003), *Comparative presidencies: The inadequacy of the presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentary distinction*. “European Journal of Political Research”, 42: 287–312.

Other readings: G. Sartori (1994), *Comparative Constitutional Engineering*, London MacMillan, ch. 5 *Parliamentarism*; ch 6 *Presidentialism*; ch 7 *Semi-presidentialism*; M. S. Shugart and J.M. Carey (1992), *Presidents and Assemblies*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, ch. 8 *Assessing the powers of the presidency* pp.148-166; S. D. Roper (2002) *Are All Semipresidential Regimes the Same? A Comparison of Premier-Presidential Regimes*, in “Comparative Politics”, Vol. 34, No. 3. pp. 253-272. J. A. Cheibub and S. Chernykh (2008). *Constitutions and Democratic Performance in Semi-Presidential Democracies*. In “Japanese Journal of Political Science”, 9, pp.269-303.

Fourth Week (Lectures 16-20; 26-28 October). The analysis of Forms of Government II

- From the big picture to the details.
- Explaining the choices of the forms of government
- Discussing the consequences of different Forms of Government
- The form of Government in a supranational system: the EU case

Readings: J. J. Linz (1994), *Presidential or parliamentary democracy does it make a difference?* in J.J. Linz and A. Valenzuela (eds.). *The failure of presidential democracy*, Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University Press, vol. 1, pp. 3-48. J. A. Cheibub and S. Chernykh (2008). *Constitutions and Democratic Performance in Semi-Presidential Democracies*. “Japanese Journal of Political Science”, 9, pp.269-303

Other readings: J. A. Cheibub and F. Limongi (2002), *Democratic institutions and regime survival: Parliamentary and Presidential Democracies Reconsidered*, in “Annual Review of Political Science”, 5, pp. 151-179.

Fifth Week (Lectures 21-25; 2-4 November) Parties and party systems

- The analysis of parties...
- ...and of party systems

Readings: R. Katz and P. Mair (1995), *Changing models of party organization and party democracy. The emergence of the Cartel Party*, in “Party Politics” 1: pp. 5-28; R.J. Dalton (2008), *The quality and quantity of party systems: party system polarization, its measurement and its consequences*, in “Comparative political studies”, 41: pp. 899-920.

Other readings: G. Sartori (2005) *Competitive systems* in G. Sartori, *Parties and party systems. A Framework for analysis*. Colchester: ECPR, pp. 116-191;

Sixth Week (Lectures 26-30; 9-11 November) Party systems continuity and change

- How party systems change
- Measuring party system change

Readings: L. Bardi and P. Mair (2008) *The parameters of party systems*, in “Party politics” 14, pp. 147-166. M. Laver and K. Benoit (2006) *Party system change: evidence of changing policy spaces*, paper presented at the International Political Science Association Meeting, July 12, 2006.

Other readings: P. Mair (1997), *The problem of party system change*, in P. Mair, *Party system change*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, pp. 45-75; N. Sitter (2002), *Cleavages, party strategy and party system change in Europe, east and west*, in "Perspectives on European Politics and Society", vol. 3, 3, pages 425-451 .

Exam Week (14-19 November) No lectures

Seventh Week (Lecture 31-35; 23-25 November) Executives and Parties

- Executives and parties in parliamentary regimes
- Executives and parties in presidential regimes
- Executive and parties in the EU

Readings:; W. C. Müller and K. Stróm (2000), *Conclusion: coalition governance in Western Europe*, in W. C. Müller and K. Stróm (eds.) *Coalition governments in Western Europe*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp. 559-592; Schleiter, P. and Morgan-Jones, E. (2009), *Party government in Europe? Parliamentary and semi-presidential democracies compared*. In "European Journal of Political Research", 48: 665–693.

SECOND MODULE

Eighth Week (Lectures 36-40; 30 November- 2 December)

Individual assignments. Research questions. How to write a paper. Specific problems

Ninth Week (Lectures 41-43; 7 December)

Collection and presentation of basic information about institutional setup

Tenth Week (Lectures 44-48; 14-18December)

Collection of basic data about party systems. Electoral data, party identities, etc.

Information and data about governments. Measures and indexes.

Twelfth Week (Lectures 49-53; 11-13 January)

Party systems and forms of government: combined discussion

Thirteenth Week (Lectures 54-60; 18-20 January)

Presentation of preliminary papers